

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 242

By Davis L

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study fire and building inspector certification.

WHEREAS, 16 persons perished in a high-rise fire on Christmas Eve 1989 in Johnson City; and

WHEREAS, during the 1990 legislative session, a study committee was established to study building and fire codes, and their implementation by local governments; and

WHEREAS, legislation arising out of this study committee and passed by the General Assembly in 1991 established a fire and building code certification act, which required all local governments to have certified inspectors by July 1, 1994; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous complaints about the test for this certification either being too difficult or incompatible for the goal it is attempting to achieve; and

WHEREAS, one of the effects, whether intended or not, has been for numerous cities and counties to delete all of their inspection and permit programs for all dwellings; and

WHEREAS, there have already been "grandfather" provisions placed into the law for persons of a certain age and certain years of experience, and further legislation has been introduced each session to grant even broader exemptions; and

WHEREAS, the implications of these programs, or the lack thereof, need to be evaluated to determine what action state and local governments should take in regard to building and fire inspections; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study fire and building inspection certifications and any other issues related to the implementation of new home inspections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of two (2) persons each from the Senate Commerce Committee and the House State and Local Government Committee; one (1) person each from the body of the whole Senate and House of Representatives, to be appointed by the respective speakers; one (1) person from the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association to be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate in consultation with the Executive Director of the Tennessee Municipal League; one (1) person from the State Fire Marshal's Office to be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate in consultation with the State Fire Marshal's office; one (1) person from the Tennessee Building Officials Association to be appointed by the Speaker of the House in consultation with the executive director of the Tennessee Municipal League; and one (1) person of the Tennessee Home Builder's Association appointed by the Speaker of the House in consultation with the executive director of the Tennessee Home-builder's Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations to the One-Hundredth General Assembly no later than February 1, 1998, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.